QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT YPSILANTI'S HUMAN RIGHTS ORDNIANCE

WHAT DOES THE YPSILANTI HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE SAY?

"It is the intent of the City that no person be denied equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights or be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, having a disability, familial status, educational association, source of income, height, or weight."

First paragraph of the Human Rights Ordinance, adopted 12/16/97

WHAT CATEGORIES ARE PROTECTED BY THE YPSILANTI HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE?

There are 14 categories:

– race
– color
– religion
– national origin
– sex
– sexual orientation
– age
– marital status
– having a disability
– familial status
– educational association
– source of income
– height
– weight

IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE HUMAN RIGHT ORDINANCE PROTECT YPSILANTI RESIDENTS?

The Human Rights Ordinance protects only against denial of access to housing, employment, or public accommodations based on these characteristics.

DOES THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE PROVIDE 'SPECIAL STATUS'?

No. The rights to equal access to housing, jobs, or to be served in a business are not 'special rights,' but are long established civil rights that Ypsilanti residents expect and deserve.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THIS LAW?

Yes. Because the Human Rights Ordinance is based on Constitutional rights, it does not alter existing first amendment rights, such as free speech or religious practice or association, nor does it change existing affirmative action laws.

ARE THE RIGHTS OF BUSINESS PEOPLE PROTECTED?

Yes. Business owners will still hire people based on their skills, will still treat customers as valued clients, and will only change benefit programs as they desire to.

WHAT IF THE ORDINANCE CONFLICTS WITH MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS?

No one can force you to change your religious views, practices, beliefs, or the religious organization you choose to participate in. This ordinance only addresses jobs, housing, and public accommodation.

The question is basic:

SHOULD IT BE LEGAL TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST GAY PEOPLE?

The answer is simple:

NO

NO DISCRIMINATION
YPSILANTI
CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY